

## Why Florida Leads All the Other States in the Union

In many instances returns from one crop here exceed the returns from the same kind of crop grown in other parts of the country. Then, too, Florida gets from two to four crops a year while other States do not always harvest their one and only planting.

The Year Book of the department of agriculture is the strongest kind of a booster for Florida. If the farmers of the other states would make a habit of reading it, Florida would fill up with people more rapidly than any state ever has before. The Year Book for 1911 said: "Florida produces the most delicate fruit and vegetable crops in the land of the northern winter." It should be remembered that this is a clear gain. Other states do not produce any crops at all in the dead of winter. The Florida winter vegetable crops, bringing enormous prices, because they have no competition, are out of the way before the farmers of other states plant and so the Florida grower after harvesting this highly profitable crop can compete with the growers of other states for the balance of the year.

Florida land has been known to produce \$1,000 \$1,500, \$2,000, \$2,500 and in one well authenticated instance over \$3,000 worth of products on one acre. Farmers of other states, happy at getting from \$50 to \$100 from an acre, may doubt this statement. Well, here is a statement from the Year Book of the department of agriculture for 1911, page 316: "A combination of irrigation and draining at Sanford, Fla., has transformed worthless lands into those producing crops of celery, valued at \$2,000 per acre for one crop."

Mark the words "for one crop" for they mean something. Besides the celery three or four other crops can be grown on the same ground in a year, for Florida's growing season is twelve months long.

The Year Book of the department of agriculture does not furnish tables showing the production by states of small crops such as cabbage, onions,

### FLORIDA HAS CALL.

Florida holds the most advantageous position of all the southern states, when the great streams of North Atlantic, European and gulf commerce are considered, and her proximity to Cuba and other West Indian islands is largely in her favor.

Her rivers, lakes and harbors, her fruits, flowers, forests, fish and game, her productive soil, balmy air and health-giving sunshine appeal to all classes in a resistless manner. Florida has the call upon the people of the North.



HUB ALLEN,  
Editor Milton Gazette, and President  
West Florida Press Association.

lettuce, celery, tomatoes, nor of fruits and berries. These are Florida's principal sources of wealth and so we can't put Florida's best foot foremost. But let's make a comparison of the larger crops of which this state produces comparatively little because the fruit and vegetable crops are so much more profitable.

On 536,000 acres of land Florida produced last year 3,236,000 bushels of corn—not quite fifteen bushels per acre. The United States produced 2,552,190,000 bushels on 105,825,000 acres about twenty-four bushels per acre. The Florida corn was worth on the farm 50 cents per bushel or \$12 per acre, while that of the whole country averaged 51 cents per bushel or \$14.64 per acre. So the average of the United States is only \$2.64 more on a crop that must be the only crop grown on an acre than the Florida grower gets on one of a number of crops.

On 43,000 acres of land Florida produced 580,000 bushels of oats worth \$435,000. The United States produced

932,238,000 bushels worth \$414,663,000 on 37,762,000 acres. The average value of the product per acre in Florida was \$10.12, and in the United States \$10.98 per acre.

Florida produced an average of ninety bushels of potatoes worth \$130.50 per acre. The United States produces an average of eighty-one bushels worth \$64.60 per acre. Florida beat the average of the country a little more than two to one.

Florida average 1.3 tons of hay worth \$23.67 per acre. The United States averaged 1.1 tons worth \$16.15 per acre. In hay Florida averaged nearly 50 per cent more in value per acre than the United States.

Florida produced on an acre an average of 340 pounds of tobacco worth \$263.20, against an average for the United States of 334 pounds worth \$84.13. Florida's tobacco yields more than three times as much per acre as that of the country taken as a whole.

Florida grows cotton—a little less per acre than that of the other states—the figures are not given, but it is of the Sea Island variety worth about twice as much per pound as the up-lands cotton grown in other states.

Crop by crop Florida will average higher than nearly any other state and the crop compared is the only one in other states and only one of a number grown on the same land in this state. When these facts become fully known the rush to Florida will be greater than ever was the rush to Oklahoma.



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